

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1           Claim 1 (currently amended): An electronic camera,  
2   comprising:  
3           an image capturing unit capturing an image of a  
4   subject, and outputting an image signal;  
5           an image processing unit obtaining image data in a  
6   predetermined format based on the image signal captured  
7   by said image capturing unit;  
8           a setting unit setting an image capturing condition  
9   for capturing the image of the subject;  
10          a storing unit storing a plurality of pieces of  
11   image forming instruction information used when an image  
12   forming apparatus forms a visible image ~~is formed~~ based  
13   on the image data;  
14          a selecting unit selecting a predetermined piece of  
15   image forming instruction information from among the  
16   plurality of pieces of image forming instruction  
17   information stored in said storing unit, based on the  
18   image capturing condition set by said setting unit; and  
19          an outputting unit associating the image forming  
20   instruction information selected by said selecting unit  
21   with the image data, and outputting the image forming  
22   instruction information in association with the image  
23   data.

1           Claim 2 (currently amended): An electronic camera,  
2   comprising:  
3           an image capturing unit capturing an image of a  
4   subject, and outputting an image signal;

5        an image processing unit obtaining image data in a  
6        predetermined format based on the image signal captured  
7        by said image capturing unit;  
8        a shooting mode selecting unit selecting a mode used  
9        for shooting from among a plurality of shooting modes;  
10       a storing unit storing a plurality of image forming  
11       instruction modes used when a an image forming apparatus  
12       forms a visible image ~~is formed~~ based on the image data;  
13       an image forming instruction mode selecting unit  
14       selecting a predetermined image forming instruction mode  
15       from among the plurality of image forming instruction  
16       modes stored in said storing unit based on the shooting  
17       mode selected by said shooting mode selecting unit; and  
18       an outputting unit associating the image forming  
19       instruction mode selected by said image forming  
20       instruction mode selecting unit with the image data, and  
21       outputting the image forming instruction mode in  
22       association with the image data.

1       Claim 3 (currently amended): An electronic camera,  
2       comprising:  
3       an image capturing unit capturing an image of a  
4       subject, and outputting an image signal;  
5       an image processing unit obtaining image data in a  
6       predetermined format based on the image signal captured  
7       by said image capturing unit;  
8       an image capturing condition setting unit setting a  
9       condition for image capturing performed by said image  
10       capturing unit based on status of the subject;  
11       a storing unit storing a plurality of image forming  
12       instruction modes used when an image forming apparatus  
13       forms a visible image ~~is formed~~ based on the image data;

14           an image forming instruction mode selecting unit  
15   selecting a predetermined image forming instruction mode  
16   from among the plurality of image forming instruction  
17   modes stored in said storing unit based on the condition  
18   for image capturing, which is set by said image capturing  
19   condition setting unit; and  
20           an outputting unit associating the image forming  
21   instruction mode selected by said image forming  
22   instruction mode selecting unit with the image data, and  
23   outputting the image forming instruction mode in  
24   association with the image data.

1           Claim 4 (currently amended): An electronic camera,  
2   comprising:  
3           an image capturing unit capturing an image of a  
4   subject, and outputting an image signal;  
5           an image processing unit obtaining image data in a  
6   predetermined format based on the image signal captured  
7   by said image capturing unit;  
8           a shooting mode selecting unit selecting a mode used  
9   for shooting from among a plurality of shooting modes;  
10          an image capturing condition setting unit setting a  
11   condition for image capturing performed by said image  
12   capturing unit based on status of the subject;  
13          a storing unit storing a plurality of image forming  
14   instruction modes used when an image forming apparatus  
15   forms a visible image ~~is formed~~ based on the image data;  
16          an image forming instruction mode selecting unit  
17   selecting a predetermined image forming instruction mode  
18   from among the plurality of image forming instruction  
19   modes stored in said storing unit based on the shooting  
20   mode selected by said shooting mode selecting unit, and

21 the condition for image capturing, which is set by said  
22 image capturing condition setting unit; and  
23 an outputting unit associating the image forming  
24 instruction mode selected by said image forming  
25 instruction mode selecting unit with the image data, and  
26 outputting the image forming instruction mode in  
27 association with the image data.

1 Claim 5 (currently amended): An electronic camera,  
2 comprising:

3 an image capturing unit capturing an image of a  
4 subject, and outputting an image signal;

5 an image processing unit obtaining image data in a  
6 predetermined format based on the image signal captured  
7 by said image capturing unit;

8 a setting unit setting an image capturing condition  
9 for capturing the image of the subject from among a  
10 plurality of image capturing conditions to which  
11 priorities are assigned;

12 a storing unit storing a plurality of pieces of  
13 image forming instruction information used when an image  
14 forming apparatus forms a visible image ~~is formed~~ based  
15 on the image data;

16 a selecting unit selecting a predetermined piece of  
17 image forming instruction information from among the  
18 plurality of pieces of image forming instruction  
19 information stored in said storing unit, based on a  
20 priority assigned to the image capturing condition set by  
21 said setting unit; and

22 an outputting unit associating the image forming  
23 instruction information selected by said selecting unit  
24 with the image data, and outputting the image forming

25 instruction information in association with the image  
26 data.

1 Claim 6 (original): The electronic camera according  
2 to claim 5, wherein:

3 the plurality of image capturing conditions include  
4 at least a mode used for shooting, and a condition for  
5 image capturing; and

6 the mode used for shooting is assigned a priority  
7 higher than the condition for image capturing.

1 Claim 7 (currently amended): An electronic camera  
2 system having an electronic camera, and an image forming  
3 apparatus, wherein:

4 the electronic camera comprises

5 an image capturing unit capturing an image of a  
6 subject, and outputting an image signal,

7 an image processing unit obtaining image data  
8 in a predetermined format based on the image signal  
9 captured by said image capturing unit,

10 a setting unit setting an image capturing  
11 condition for capturing the image of the subject,

12 a storing unit storing a plurality of pieces of  
13 image forming instruction information used when the image  
14 forming apparatus forms a visible image ~~is formed~~ based  
15 on the image data,

16 a selecting unit selecting a predetermined  
17 piece of image forming instruction information from among  
18 the plurality of pieces of image forming instruction  
19 information stored in said storing unit, based on the  
20 image capturing condition set by said setting unit and

21           an outputting unit associating the image  
22 forming instruction information selected by said  
23 selecting unit with the image data, and outputting the  
24 image forming instruction information in association with  
25 the image data; and  
26           the image forming apparatus comprises  
27           a reading unit reading image data to be formed  
28 as an image, and image forming instruction information in  
29 association with the image data,  
30           an image forming mode selecting unit selecting  
31 an image forming mode, which corresponds to the image  
32 forming instruction information read by said reading  
33 unit, from among a plurality of image forming modes  
34 performing an image forming process according to a  
35 different condition,  
36           an image forming processing unit performing an  
37 image quality forming process according to the image  
38 forming mode selected by said image forming mode  
39 selecting unit, and  
40           an image outputting unit outputting image data  
41 for which an image process is performed by said image  
42 forming processing unit.

1           Claim 8 (currently amended): A method associating  
2 predetermined information with image data, and outputting  
3 the predetermined information in association with the  
4 image data, comprising:  
5           setting an image capturing condition for capturing  
6 an image of a subject;  
7           capturing the image of the subject, and outputting  
8 an image signal;

9 obtaining image data in a predetermined format based  
10 on the image signal;

11 selecting a predetermined piece of image forming  
12 instruction information from among a plurality of pieces  
13 of image forming instruction information used when an  
14 image forming apparatus forms a visible image ~~is formed~~  
15 based on the obtained image data, according to the set  
16 image capturing condition; and

17 associating the selected image forming instruction  
18 information with the obtained image data, and outputting  
19 the image forming instruction information in association  
20 with the image data.

1 Claim 9 (currently amended): A method associating  
2 predetermined information with image data, and outputting  
3 the predetermined information in associating with the  
4 image data, comprising:

5 selecting a mode used for shooting from among a  
6 plurality of shooting modes;

7 capturing an image of a subject, and outputting an  
8 image signal;

9 obtaining image data in a predetermined format based  
10 on the image signal;

11 selecting a predetermined image forming instruction  
12 mode from among a plurality of image forming instruction  
13 modes used when an image forming apparatus forms a  
14 visible image ~~is formed~~ based on the obtained image data,  
15 according to the selected shooting mode; and

16 associating the selected image forming instruction  
17 mode with the obtained image data, and outputting the  
18 image forming instruction mode in associating with the  
19 image data.



1           Claim 10 (currently amended): A method associating  
2   predetermined information with image data, and outputting  
3   the predetermined information in association with the  
4   image data, comprising:  
5           setting a condition for image capturing based on  
6   status of a subject;  
7           capturing an image of the subject, and outputting an  
8   image signal;  
9           obtaining image data in a predetermined format based  
10   on the image signal;  
11           selecting a predetermined image forming instruction  
12   mode from among a plurality of image forming instruction  
13   modes used when an image forming apparatus forms a  
14   visible image ~~is formed~~ based on the obtained image data,  
15   according to the set condition for image capturing; and  
16           associating the selected image forming instruction  
17   mode with the obtained image data, and outputting the  
18   image forming instruction mode in association with the  
19   image data.

1           Claim 11 (currently amended): A method associating  
2   predetermined information with image data, and outputting  
3   the predetermined information in association with the  
4   image data, comprising:  
5           selecting a mode used for shooting from among a  
6   plurality of shooting modes;  
7           setting a condition for image capturing based on  
8   status of a subject;  
9           capturing an image of the subject, and outputting an  
10   image signal;



11           obtaining image data in a predetermined format based  
12 on the image signal;  
13           selecting a predetermined image forming instruction  
14 mode from among a plurality of image forming instruction  
15 modes used when an image forming apparatus forms a  
16 visible image ~~is formed~~ based on the obtained image data,  
17 according to the selected shooting mode and the set  
18 condition for image capturing; and  
19           associating the selected image forming instruction  
20 mode with the obtained image data, and outputting the  
21 image forming instruction mode in associating with the  
22 image data.

1           Claim 12 (currently amended): A method associating  
2 predetermined information with image data, and outputting  
3 the predetermined information in association with the  
4 image data, comprising:

5           setting an image capturing condition for capturing  
6 an image of a subject from among a plurality of image  
7 capturing conditions to which priorities are assigned;  
8           capturing the image of the subject, and outputting  
9 an image signal;

10           obtaining image data in a predetermined format based  
11 on the image signal;

12           selecting a predetermined piece of image forming  
13 instruction information from among a plurality of pieces  
14 of image forming instruction information used when an  
15 image forming apparatus forms a visible image ~~is formed~~  
16 based on the obtained image data, according to a priority  
17 assigned to the set image capturing condition; and

18           associating the selected image forming instruction  
19 information with the obtained image data, and outputting

20 the image forming instruction information in associating  
21 with the image data.

1       Claim 13 (currently amended): An image forming  
2 method, comprising:  
3       setting an image capturing condition for capturing  
4 an image of a subject,  
5       capturing the image of the subject, and outputting  
6 an image signal,  
7       obtaining image data in a predetermined format based  
8 on the image signal,  
9       selecting a predetermined piece of image forming  
10 instruction information from among a plurality of pieces  
11 of image forming instruction information used when an  
12 image forming apparatus forms a visible image ~~is formed~~  
13 based on the obtained image data, according to the set  
14 image capturing condition, and  
15       associating the selected image forming instruction  
16 information with the obtained image data, and outputting  
17 the image forming instruction information in associating  
18 with the image data, in an electronic camera; and  
19       reading image data to be formed as an image, and  
20 image forming instruction information in associating with  
21 the image data,  
22       selecting an image forming mode which corresponds to  
23 the read image forming instruction information from among  
24 a plurality of image forming modes performing an image  
25 forming process according to a different condition,  
26       performing an image quality forming process  
27 according to the selected image forming mode, and

28        outputting the image data for which the image  
29        process is performed as the image quality forming  
30        process, in an image forming apparatus.

1        Claim 14 (currently amended):    An electronic camera,  
2        comprising:  
3        an image capturing unit capturing an image of a  
4        subject, and outputting an image signal;  
5        an image processing unit obtaining image data in a  
6        predetermined format based on the image signal captured  
7        by said image capturing unit;  
8        a shooting condition correcting unit correcting a  
9        shooting condition for exposure or image quality at the  
10       time of shooting;  
11       a setting unit setting correction instruction  
12       information for instructing a correction for a process  
13       performed when an image forming apparatus forms a visible  
14       image ~~is formed~~ from the image data, based on the  
15       shooting condition corrected by said shooting condition  
16       correcting unit; and  
17       an outputting unit associating the correction  
18       instruction information for instructing a correction for  
19       a process performed when the image forming apparatus  
20       forms a visible image ~~is formed~~, which is set by said  
21       setting unit, with the image data and outputting the  
22       correction instruction information in association with  
23       the image data.

1        Claim 15 (currently amended):    The electronic camera  
2        according to claim 14, wherein  
3        said setting unit sets correction instruction  
4        information for instructing whether or not to make a

5 correction for each process that includes at least any of  
6 a grayscale process, a color process, and a sharpness  
7 process, which are performed when the image forming  
8 apparatus forms a visible image ~~is formed~~ from the image  
9 data, based on the shooting condition corrected by said  
10 shooting condition correcting unit.

1 Claim 16 (currently amended): The electronic camera  
2 according to claim 15, wherein

3 said setting unit sets correction instruction  
4 information for instructing corrections for a plurality  
5 of combined processes performed when the image forming  
6 apparatus forms a visible image ~~is formed~~ from the image  
7 data, based on the shooting condition corrected by said  
8 shooting condition correcting unit.

1 Claim 17 (currently amended): An electronic camera  
2 system having an electronic camera and an image forming  
3 apparatus, wherein:

4 the electronic camera comprises  
5 an image capturing unit capturing an image of a  
6 subject, and outputting an image signal,  
7 an image processing unit obtaining image data  
8 in a predetermined format based on the image signal  
9 captured by said image capturing unit,  
10 a shooting condition correcting unit correcting  
11 a shooting condition for exposure or image quality at the  
12 time of shooting,  
13 a setting unit setting correction instruction  
14 information for instructing a correction for a process  
15 performed when the image forming apparatus forms a  
16 visible image ~~is formed~~ from the image data, based on the

17 shooting condition corrected by said shooting condition  
18 correcting unit, and  
19 an outputting unit associating the correction  
20 instruction information for instructing a correction for  
21 a process performed when the image forming apparatus  
22 forms a visible image ~~is formed~~, which is set by said  
23 setting unit, with the image data and outputting the  
24 correction instruction information in association with  
25 the image data; and  
26 the image forming apparatus comprises  
27 a reading unit reading image data to be formed  
28 as an image, and correction instruction information in  
29 association with the image data,  
30 an image forming processing unit performing an  
31 image quality forming process based on the correction  
32 instruction information read by said reading unit, and  
33 an outputting unit outputting the image data  
34 for which the image process is performed by said image  
35 forming processing unit.

1 Claim 18 (currently amended): The electronic camera  
2 system according to claim 17, wherein  
3 said setting unit sets correction instruction  
4 information for instructing whether or not to make a  
5 correction for each process which includes at least any  
6 of a grayscale process, a color process, and a sharpness  
7 process, which are performed when the image forming  
8 apparatus forms a visible image ~~is formed~~ from the image  
9 data, based on the shooting condition corrected by said  
10 shooting condition correcting unit.

1        Claim 19 (currently amended): The electronic camera  
2 system according to claim 18, wherein  
3        said setting unit sets correction instruction  
4 information for instructing corrections for a plurality  
5 of combined processes performed when the image forming  
6 apparatus forms a visible image ~~is-formed~~ from the image  
7 data, based on the shooting condition corrected by said  
8 shooting condition correcting unit.

1        Claim 20 (currently amended): A method associating  
2 predetermined information with image data, and outputting  
3 the predetermined information in association with the  
4 image data, comprising:  
5        correcting a shooting condition for exposure or  
6 image quality at the time of shooting;  
7        capturing an image of a subject, and outputting an  
8 image signal;  
9        obtaining image data in a predetermined format based  
10 on the image signal;  
11        setting correction instruction information for  
12 instructing a correction for a process performed when an  
13 image forming apparatus forms a visible image ~~is-formed~~  
14 from the obtained image data, based on the corrected  
15 shooting condition; and  
16        associating the set correction instruction  
17 information for instructing the correction for the  
18 process performed when the image forming apparatus forms  
19 a visible image ~~is-formed~~ with the image data, and  
20 outputting the correction instruction information in  
21 association with the image data.

1           Claim 21 (currently amended): An image forming  
2 method, comprising:  
3           correcting a shooting condition for exposure or  
4 image quality at the time of shooting,  
5           capturing an image of a subject, and outputting an  
6 image signal,  
7           obtaining image data in a predetermined format based  
8 on the image signal,  
9           setting correction instruction information for  
10 instructing a correction for a process performed when an  
11 image forming apparatus forms a visible image ~~is formed~~  
12 from the obtained image data, based on the corrected  
13 shooting condition, and  
14           associating the set correction instruction  
15 information for instructing the correction for the  
16 process performed when the image forming apparatus forms  
17 a visible image ~~is formed~~ with the image data, and  
18 outputting the correction instruction information in  
19 association with the image data, in an electronic camera;  
20 and  
21           reading image data to be formed as an image, and  
22 correction instruction information in association with  
23 the image data,  
24           performing an image quality forming process based on  
25 the read correction instruction information, and  
26           outputting the image data for which the image  
27 process is performed as the image quality forming  
28 process, in an image forming apparatus.

Claims 22-47 (canceled)



1        Claim 48 (new): The electronic camera according to  
2 claim 1, wherein the outputting unit automatically  
3 associates the image forming instruction mode selected by  
4 said image forming instruction mode selecting unit with  
5 the image data, and outputs, to the image forming  
6 apparatus, the image forming instruction mode in  
7 association with the image data such that the image  
8 forming apparatus uses, automatically, the selected piece  
9 of image forming instruction information when forming the  
10 visible image based on the image data.

1        Claim 49 (new): The electronic camera according to  
2 claim 1, wherein the image forming apparatus is a  
3 printer.

1        Claim 50 (new): The electronic camera according to  
2 claim 2, wherein the image forming apparatus is a  
3 printer.

1        Claim 51 (new): The electronic camera according to  
2 claim 3, wherein the image forming apparatus is a  
3 printer.

1        Claim 52 (new): The electronic camera according to  
2 claim 4, wherein the image forming apparatus is a  
3 printer.

1        Claim 53 (new): The electronic camera according to  
2 claim 5, wherein the image forming apparatus is a  
3 printer.

1       Claim 54 (new): The electronic camera system  
2   according to claim 7, wherein the image forming apparatus  
3   is a printer.

1       Claim 55 (new): The method according to claim 8,  
2   wherein the image forming apparatus is a printer.

1       Claim 56 (new): The method according to claim 9,  
2   wherein the image forming apparatus is a printer.

1       Claim 57 (new): The method according to claim 10,  
2   wherein the image forming apparatus is a printer.

1       Claim 58 (new): The method according to claim 11,  
2   wherein the image forming apparatus is a printer.

1       Claim 59 (new): The method according to claim 12,  
2   wherein the image forming apparatus is a printer.

1       Claim 60 (new): The method according to claim 13,  
2   wherein the image forming apparatus is a printer.

1       Claim 61 (new): The electronic camera according to  
2   claim 14, wherein the image forming apparatus is a  
3   printer.

1       Claim 62 (new): The electronic camera system  
2   according to claim 17, wherein the image forming  
3   apparatus is a printer.

1       Claim 63 (new): The method according to claim 20,  
2   wherein the image forming apparatus is a printer.

1           Claim 64 (new): The method according to claim 21,  
2   wherein the image forming apparatus is a printer.